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*Sharing **LIGHT** and **HOPE** for people with diabetes*

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<b>What it is</b>	A broad-based partnership of organizations, associations, and individuals that are concerned about diabetes and related health outcomes of Kentuckians. The group was established in June 1999.
<b>Mission</b>	Through the cooperation of public and private partnerships, the Kentucky Diabetes Network (KDN) will implement the National Diabetes Education Program and other strategies to improve the treatment and outcomes for Kentuckians with diabetes, to promote early diagnosis, and, ultimately, to prevent the onset of diabetes.
<b>Need</b>	Current scientific evidence demonstrates that much of the morbidity and mortality of diabetes can be eliminated by aggressive treatment with diet, physical activity and new pharmacological approaches to normalize blood glucose levels. Unfortunately, a wide gap still exists between current and desired diabetes care and practices, despite the fact that the disease is one of the leading causes of death and disability in our nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky – affecting an estimated 222,000 adult Kentuckians, including 74,000 who are undiagnosed. *
<b>Goal</b>	The goal of the effort is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with diabetes and its complications.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The long term objectives of the Kentucky Diabetes Network are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To increase public awareness of the seriousness of diabetes, its risk factors, and potential strategies for preventing diabetes and its complications.</li><li>• To improve understanding about diabetes and its control and to promote better self-management behaviors among people with diabetes.</li><li>• To improve health care providers' understanding of diabetes and its control and to promote an integrated approach to care.</li><li>• To promote health care policies and activities that improve the quality of and access to diabetes care.</li></ul>
<b>Current Focus</b>	To increase public awareness of the <b>seriousness of diabetes</b> and the importance of blood glucose control. A core message of the focus is: <b>Know your blood glucose numbers</b> as measured by the hemoglobin A1c test and

finger-stick testing using a blood glucose meter. The general public, individuals with diabetes, high risk populations including African Americans, Appalachia, and Seniors, health professionals, health care payers, health care purchasers, and policy makers are all targeted in this effort.

**Honorary Chair** Lieutenant Governor Stephen L. Henry, M.D.

**Partners** African American Health Network • American College of Cardiology • American College of Occupational Health and Medicine • American Diabetes Association, Kentucky Area • American and Kentucky Dietetic Associations • American Heart Association • Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield • Appalachian Diabetes Coalition • Appalachian Regional Healthcare • Association of Clinical Endocrinologists • Black Church Coalition of the Bluegrass • Business and Health NDEP Group • Businesses • CHA Health • Diabetes Advisory Committee for the Kentucky Department for Public Health • Diabetes Product Companies • Office of Aging Services • Faith Communities • Greater Louisville Association of Diabetes Educators • Health Care Excel • Hospitals • Humana, Inc. • Individuals with Diabetes • Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Kentuckiana Chapter, • Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons • Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants • Kentucky Association of Diabetes Educators • Kentucky Association of Health Plans • Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Midwives • Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services • Kentucky Department for Public Health • Kentucky Diabetes Control Program • Kentucky Department for Insurance • Kentucky Health Select • Kentucky Home Health Association • Kentucky Medical Association • Kentucky Nurses Association • Kentucky Optometric Association • Kentucky Pediatric Society • Kentucky Pharmacist Association • Kentucky Podiatric Medical Association • Kentucky Primary Care Association • Kentucky School Nurses Association • KYANNA Black Nurses Association • Lions Clubs of Kentucky • Local Diabetes Coalitions and Support Groups • Local Health Department Minority Health Programs • Local Health Departments • Long Term Care Facilities • National Health Services, Inc. • Native American Commission • Parish Nursing • Partner Care • Passport/AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plans • Rebekah Assembly of Kentucky • Schools of Nursing • State and Local Government Officials • Tri-State Association of Diabetes Educators • University of Louisville Division of Endocrinology • University of Kentucky Adult and Pediatric Endocrinology • University of Kentucky Center for Rural Health • University of Kentucky Extension Services • United Healthcare of Kentucky, Ltd. • University Nutrition Programs • VA Medical Center • and Others

**Contact** For more information contact the Kentucky Diabetes Control Program of the Department for Public Health at (502) 564-7996.